EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



Working with Southeast Side and south suburban communities to improve the Calumet region

Calumet Initiative Office 13300 S. Baltimore Ave. Chicago, IL 60633

Ph: (773) 646-0436 Fax: (773) 646-0997 www.setaskforce.org

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 Executive Director

December 22, 2005

Verneta Simon U.S. EPA Region 5 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Southeast Environmental Task Force (SETF) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization comprised of, and governed by, residents of the Illinois Calumet Region as well as representatives of regional NGOs. SETF develops and executes strategies to ensure that people who live and work in the region have a safe, healthy environment that also contributes to a sustainable local economy.

It has come to the attention of SETF that contamination from the Calumet Container site migrated westward under the Indiana Harbor Belt railroad tracks via historic (either existing or removed) drain tiles. Based on anecdotal evidence—including references to court records—soil, sediment, and groundwater may have been impacted by contaminated drainage from these tiles to a channel connecting Powderhorn Lake to Wolf Lake.

We request additional site assessment/sampling work be performed west of the Harbor Belt railroad tracks into the Powerdhorn Forest Preserve District former channel area to determine whether uncontrolled releases from the Calumet Container site have impacted these adjacent public natural areas.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request. Please call me at 773-704-7324 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rosinski Executive Director

Cc: Steve Bylina, CCFPD Suzanne Malec, CDOE